considerable distance, and commerce tended to centre in towns which were conveniently placed at a junction of routes, and which, owing to a strong influx of people, were growing into cities. In such countries the Jews now tended to leave the small towns for the cities. This movement, although a universal concomitant of modern industrial development, set in earlier and stronger in the case of the Jews.

In countries which Jewish immigrants have entered after the modern means of transport had been developed, they settled in the cities only, avoiding the smaller towns. There the concentration of Jews in a few cities, which are centres of commerce, is striking; and where in such a country the capital dominates the economic life, it harbours the majority of its Jews.

(2) THE VILLAGKE JEWS *IN*

In migrating to Europe the Jews did not settle in villages, nor take to agriculture. Economically it would not have been profitable to abandon commerce for a primitive agriculture, which in Eastern Europe, and to some extent even in Central and Western Europe, was carried on by peasant serfs. Even legally they were barred from it; in many cases the land was held by communes to which Jews, as outsiders, were not admitted; while in the later Middle Ages they were forbidden to engage in agriculture or to acquire

land. There were some exceptions in earlier centuries—in Spain, Southern France, and Southern Germany, Jews owned vineyards and orchards, as they had in ancient Babylon*

If none the less Jews inhabited villages until recent times, this was because of the special part which, since the fifteenth century, they played as go-betweens and agents on the estates of the big Polish landowners.

The complete absence of a Christian commercial middle